

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

FIELD BORDER

(Ft.)

SPECIFICATION

CODE 386

**I. Planting Native Grasses or
Introduced Grasses and
Legumes**

- A. The minimum width for a planted field border is 30 feet.
- B. Lime and fertilize according to soil test.
- C. Prepare seedbed by tillage or use a no-till drill (use herbicides if necessary).
- D. Select species which meet the land user's objectives from Technical Guide Reference No. 122. Refer to the Warm-Season Grasses or Cool-Season Grasses and Legumes (Plant Hardiness Zones) maps in Section I of the Pennsylvania Technical Guide (PATG) for appropriate planting dates. The use of two or more species (such as a native grass mix or introduced grass/legume mixtures) is recommended to reduce disease and pest damage, and to increase wildlife habitat diversity.

II. Cut-back Field Borders

- A. The minimum width for a cut-back field border is 30 feet. Generally, 50 feet will be the maximum width for a cut-back border.
- B. Establish cut-back field borders by one of the following methods:
 - 1. Clear cut all trees and shrubs except mature mast-producing trees such as oaks or hickories and hollow den trees (leave no more than one per 100 linear feet of field border).
 - 2. Cut only trees and shrubs whose very tops will touch the open field when cut. Cut even mast-producing and hollow den trees.
- C. Within cut-back field borders established to improve wildlife cover, construct brush piles or windrows by crisscrossing trunks and larger branches then piling smaller brush on top.